

Mint of the United States at Philadelphia,

Feby 4th, 1884.

Sir:

In reply to your request for an explanation in the matter referred to in the letter of the Director of the Mint dated Feby 2^d I beg to say, that the calculation on the deposit of July 17th is obviously wrong, the mistake having occurred as explained in my note of Feby. 1st

In relation to the manner of computing the Alloy charge in deposits for sterling silver I would say, that for a year past the charge of 2 cts per oz on $7\frac{1}{2}\%$ of the fine weight of silver has been made. Previous to Jan 1st 1883. no alloy charge was made for sterling silver bars. Since then however owing to instructions from the Assayer, it has been our custom to make the charge referred to. When inquiry was made as to the method of computing the charge, the Assayer was consulted and his suggestion was acted upon. On the receipt of the Director's letter however, when asked

Mint of the United States at Philadelphia,

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about the matter the Assayer stated I had misunderstood him and that the charge should be made in a different way, which method agrees with the one employed by the Director namely,

925: fine weight :: 75: x

It has been the custom of this department to calculate alloy charges on all deposits for Sterling bars in the manner referred to above and as no question has previously been raised at Washington as to the method employed we had no means of knowing that it was incorrect.

I am

Very Respectfully

Your Obedt. Servant

Hon. A. London Snowden,

Supt. U. S. Mint,

Philadelphia,

Pa.

O. B. Jones

Abstract Clerk

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U. S. Mint
Philadelphia
Feb 4/84

O. B. Jones
Abstract files

1. Bar charge 174
July '83, was wrong
2. The method of
calculating the
alloy charges
was prescribed by
the Assayer.



[Abstract:] Bar charge 17th July 1883, was wrong...

Mint of the United States at Philadelphia,
February 4, 1884

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In relation to the manner of computing the Alloy charge in deposits for sterling silver I would say, that for a year past the charge of 2 cts per oz. on 7 ½ % of the fine weight of silver has been made. Previous to Jan. 1st 1883, no alloy charge was made for sterling silver bars. Since then however owing to instructions from the Assayer, it has been our custom to make the charge referred to. When inquiry was made as to the method of computing the charge, the Assayer was consulted and his suggestion was acted upon. On the receipt of the Director's letter however, when asked about the matter the Assayer stated I had misunderstood him and that the charge should be made in a different way, which method agrees with the one employed by the Director namely.

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Your Obedt. Servant
O.B. Jones
Abstract Clerk

Hon. A. Loudon Snowden
Supt. U.S. Mint,
Philadelphia, Pa.